

PRICE ONE CENT.

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LAST EDITION. PUPILS IN PERIL.

Grammar School No. 3 a Very
Haunting Place of Danger.

Terrible Casualties that a Panic Would
Precipitate.

Narrow Staircases, Sticky Banisters
and Insufficient Means of Exit.

Owing to the conservatism of the Board of Trustees of Grammar School No. 3, at Grove and Hudson streets, the lives of over two thousand pupils would be jeopardized should a panic ever occur there.

These trustees will not grant permission that a certain exit, in what is known as the annex building, shall be used by the larger boys. At present this exit is used by only 250 of the youngest children. It opens on Bedford street.

At the opposite end of the building, fronting on Hudson street, is a shaft architecturally known as a well around which winds an insignificant iron staircase, three feet wide. It extends to the top of the building. In the rear of the old building is a similar well and inadequate staircase.

The boys descending these stairs pass through a hall on the first floor and out into Hudson street through the same exit as the rest of the boys.

There are 1,200 boys, consequently, who have only the Hudson street means of escape. The narrow staircases, prove a veritable death-trap to this regiment of boys should they become panic-stricken.

The primary boys are on the lower floors. In case of an alarm of fire they would be trampled to death by the larger boys coming down the stairs on top of them.

The stairs are only wide enough to admit of two boys descending abreast.

The girls are better provided for. They have three means of exit: One on Hudson street and two on Grove.

The stairs they descend are six feet wide. The stairs of the building, however, the banisters were, decidedly rickety.

In 1883 there was a false alarm of fire in the school. The girls rushed to the stairs and a body down just such a stairway as this in School No. 3.

The banisters broke under the pressure and precipitated many of the girls to the bottom of the well.

Forty-two dead girls were taken out of the building.

This is precisely what might happen in the Grove street school, with the added horror of the 1,200 boys trying to get out through the one Hudson street door.

Attention has been called to the unsafe condition of the school through a disagreement between the Board of Education and the Trustees of the school.

Realizing the dangerous state of affairs, the latter have removed the school to the neighboring school, No. 5 being crowded to overflowing.

The parents resented the removal of their children, and the Board of Education claims that it should have been consulted about the removal, censuring the Trustees for acting without proper authority.

The affair is now at a deadlock. Principal Southern said to The Evening World man-to-day: "We trust that Providence will avert anything like a calamity. If one occurs there may be serious loss of life."

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